

# Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

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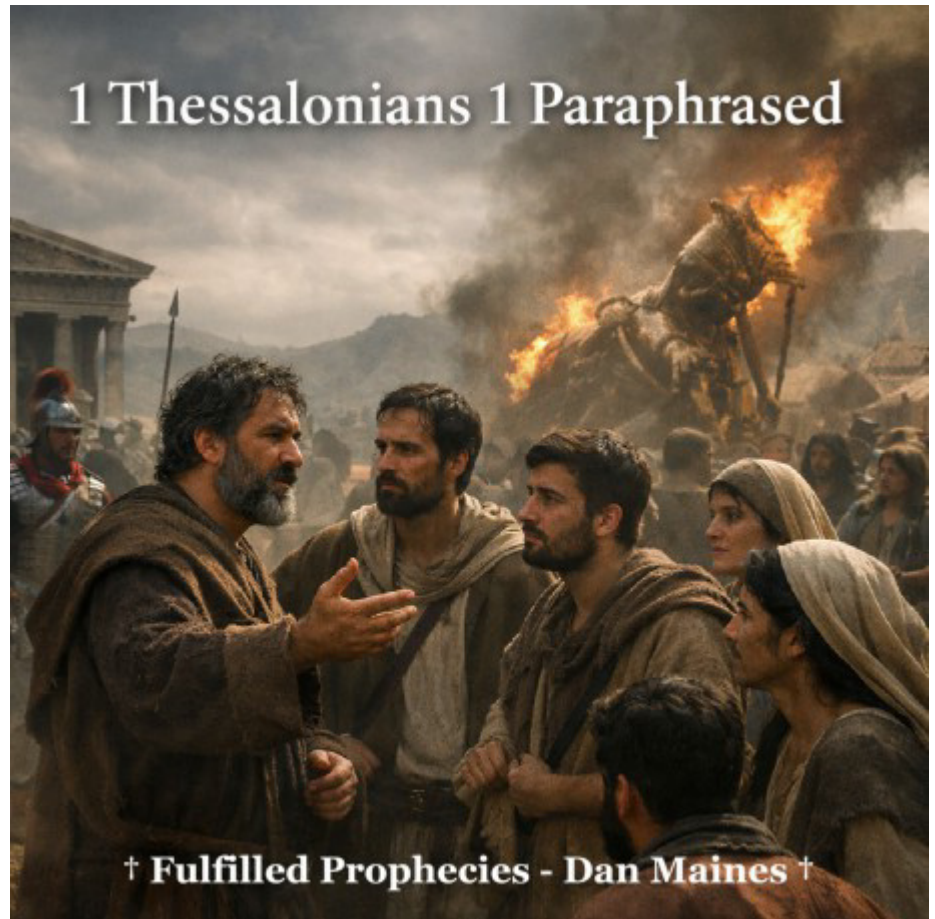
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## 1 Thessalonians 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## 1 Thessalonians 1 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Paul wrote this letter to believers living in Thessalonica during the first century while the gospel was spreading across the Roman world.

† The church there had turned from idols to serve the living God and was enduring persecution, yet their faith became widely known (Acts 17:1-10).

† This chapter shows how the gospel transformed their lives

and how their faith became an example to others throughout the region.

### **1 Thessalonians 1:1**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy write this letter to the church of the Thessalonians who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace and peace are given to you.

† Paul identifies the believers as belonging to both the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, showing their unity with God through Christ (John 17:21).

† Silvanus, also known as Silas, and Timothy were fellow workers who helped establish this church during Paul's missionary journey (Acts 15:40; Acts 16:1-3).

† The greeting of grace and peace reflects the blessing believers receive through Christ's finished work (Romans 5:1).

### **1 Thessalonians 1:2**

We always thank God for all of you, and we constantly remember you in our prayers.

† The apostles continually prayed for the churches they planted, showing that spiritual leadership included constant intercession (Colossians 1:9).

† Prayer connected the early churches across great distances, strengthening believers who faced hardship and persecution (Ephesians 6:18).

† Gratitude toward God for the faith of others was a common theme in Paul's letters (Philippians 1:3-4).

### **1 Thessalonians 1:3**

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor motivated by love, and your steady endurance because of your hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

† Faith, love, and hope appear together frequently in the New Testament as defining marks of Christian life (1 Corinthians

13:13).

† Their faith produced action, showing that true belief results in visible change (James 2:17).

† Their hope centered on Christ strengthened them during persecution and hardship (Romans 5:3-5).

### **1 Thessalonians 1:4**

Brothers and sisters loved by God, we know that He has chosen you.

† Paul recognized the evidence of God's choosing through the transformed lives of these believers (Ephesians 1:4-5).

† Their faith and endurance showed that the gospel had truly taken root among them (Colossians 1:6).

† God's love and calling are seen in the way the gospel changes hearts and produces obedience (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

### **1 Thessalonians 1:5**

Our gospel didn't come to you only as words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

† The message wasn't just spoken words, it was accompanied by the power of the Spirit that changed lives (1 Corinthians 2:4).

† The apostles lived in a way that demonstrated the truth of what they preached (2 Corinthians 6:3-4).

† Their conduct gave credibility to the message, showing that the gospel transforms both message and messenger (1 Timothy 4:12).

### **1 Thessalonians 1:6**

You followed our example and the example of the Lord, receiving the word even while suffering greatly, yet with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

† These believers accepted the message despite persecution, which was common for early Christians under Roman and Jewish opposition (Acts 17:5-9).

† Their joy didn't come from circumstances but from the Spirit working within them (Galatians 5:22).

† Following the example of Christ meant enduring hardship faithfully (1 Peter 2:21).

### **1 Thessalonians 1:7**

Because of this, you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

† The faith of the Thessalonian church spread throughout the surrounding regions, influencing other congregations (Acts 19:10).

† Their courage encouraged other believers who were also facing opposition (Hebrews 10:32-34).

† Faithful communities often inspire others to stand firm in the truth (Philippians 1:14).

### **1 Thessalonians 1:8**

The message of the Lord spread out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God became known everywhere, so we don't need to say anything about it.

† Their witness spread far beyond their city, showing the power of transformed lives (Matthew 5:16).

† The gospel advanced through ordinary believers sharing their faith (Acts 8:4).

† Their reputation for faithfulness reached many places throughout the Roman world (Romans 1:8).

### **1 Thessalonians 1:9**

People themselves report how you welcomed us and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

† Thessalonica was filled with pagan worship, yet many abandoned idols after hearing the gospel (Acts 17:4).

† Turning from idols to the living God was a dramatic change in a culture built around idol worship (1 Corinthians 12:2).

† Conversion in the early church involved a complete shift in allegiance and lifestyle (Colossians 3:5-10).

## **1 Thessalonians 1:10**

You now wait for His Son from heaven, the One God raised from the dead, Jesus who rescues us from the coming wrath.

† The early believers trusted that Christ had already secured their deliverance through His resurrection (Romans 6:9).

† The wrath referenced was the judgment that came upon Jerusalem in that generation as Jesus warned (Matthew 23:36; Matthew 24:34).

† Those in Christ were delivered from that covenant judgment through the salvation He accomplished (Luke 21:20-22).

## **Historical References**

† Josephus recorded the destruction of Jerusalem and the immense suffering that came upon the city during the Jewish War in AD 70, confirming the judgment Jesus predicted, Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6.

† Eusebius wrote that believers in Jerusalem fled to Pella before the destruction, showing that Christians escaped the coming judgment, Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5.

† Irenaeus wrote about the early spread of the gospel across the Roman world through the apostles and their disciples, Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.1.

## **How it applies to us today**

† The Thessalonians show that real faith produces visible change in life and behavior.

† Believers today are still called to turn away from idols,

whether physical or cultural, and serve the living God.

† Their courage under persecution reminds us that faith often grows stronger through hardship.

† Their example shows that ordinary believers can influence entire regions through faithful living and testimony.

† Just as they trusted Christ's completed work, we also live in the assurance that He has already secured our salvation.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Why did Paul praise the Thessalonians so strongly?

**A:** Because their faith produced real action and endurance, showing genuine transformation (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

**Q:** What major change happened when they believed the gospel?

**A:** They turned away from idols and began serving the living God (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

**Q:** What made their faith widely known?

**A:** Their testimony and transformed lives spread throughout Macedonia and Achaia (1 Thessalonians 1:8).

**Q:** What judgment were believers rescued from?

**A:** The coming wrath Jesus warned would fall on that generation (Matthew 23:36; Matthew 24:34).

**Q:** Why is the Thessalonian church important to study today?

**A:** Their faith shows how the gospel transforms lives and spreads through faithful believers (Acts 17:1-10).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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**Source Index**

- † 1 Thessalonians 1
- † Josephus, Wars of the Jews
- † Irenaeus, Against Heresies
- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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